

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SAL-01 /127 W
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R 231316Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6071
INFO USUN NY 1075
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 14737

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PLOS VE
SUBJ: STRATEGY FOR INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS
ON LOS-VENEZUELA
REFS: STATE 298001, CARACAS 8947, CARACAS 8632(ALL NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 3 OF STATE
298001.

2. GOV LOS POLICY IS MADE PRINCIPALLY IN THE PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE, BASED ON ADVICE FROM A GROUP OF BEST SENIOR ADVISORS
AVAILABLE DRAWN FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE CONGRESS, THE
LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. THE
DIRECTORATE OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS
NOMINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING LOS MATTERS.
NEW DIRECTOR OF THAT ORGANIZATION IS DR LUIS RAFAEL LUCES
MORALES. IN FACT, HOWEVER, MOST INFLUENTIAL AND DIRECT
SHAPERS OF GOV LOS POLICY ARE THE FOLLOWING: DOCTOR ANDRES
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AGUILAR, LOS C-2 CHAIRMAN, PETROVEN DIRECTOR AND LONG-TIME
CHIEF OF GOV'S LOS DELEGATIONS; DEPUTY MARCO FALCON
BRICENO, CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND LOS
EXPERT; DR ISIDRO MORALES PAUL, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR
FOR DELINEATION OF MARITIME AND SUBMARINE AREAS WITH THE

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, LAWYER AND GOV EXPERT ON C-2 ITEMS;
DR EMILIO FIGEREDO, LAWYER, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTRY
ADVISOR ON LOS, DEEP SEABED EXPERT; DR GILBERTO
RODRIGUEZ, MARINE BIOLOGIST FROM VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE FOR
SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS(IVIC), EXPERT ON MIGRATORY
SPECIES; DR JOSE ANTONIO GALAVIS, ADVISOR TO MINISTRY
OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS, CONTINENTAL SHELF AND MARGINS
EXPERT, MARINE BIOLOGIST; VICE ADMIRAL ERNESTO REYES
LEA, DIRECTOR OF MERCHANT MARINE, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.
(MOST OF FOREGOING HAVE SERVED PREVIOUSLY ON LOS DELS - SEE
CARACAS REFS).

3. THE MILITARY APPARENTLY DOES NOT PLAY A VERY ACTIVE
ROLE IN POLICY FORMATION, BUT DOES KEEP INFORMED. ALSO,
GOV DELEGATION NORMALLY INCLUDES A MILITARY MAN AT THE UN
THOSE LOS ISSUES AFFECTING THE MARITIME AND SUBMARINE AREAS
ADJACENT TO THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND COLOMBIA. THE
BUSINESS COMMUNITY DOES NOT APPEAR TO PLAY A ROLE, BUT
GOV DOES USE SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS AS NOTED ABOVE.

4. OUR PRIMARY CONTACT AMONG GOV LOS DECISION MAKERS
IS DR ANDRES AGUILAR, VENEZUELA'S LEADING LOS EXPERT
AND C-2 CHAIRMAN. AGUILAR IS NOT ONLY A HIGHLY QUALIFIED
EXPERT CONVERSANT WITH ALL THE ISSUES AND THE PERSONALITIES,
BUT HE IS RELAXED WITH US AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS US
MOST IMPORTANT, HE HAS ACCESS TO PRESIDENT PEREZ ON LOS
ISSUES. ANOTHER SENIOR VENEZUELAN WITH SOME ACCESS TO
THE PRESIDENT IS DEPUTY MARCO FALCON BRICENO. CONSEQUENTLY,
UNLESS AN ISSUE IS CRITICAL OR URGENT ENOUGH TO REQUIRE A
DIRECT APPROACH TO PRESIDENT PEREZ, WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR
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APPROACHES ON DR AGUILAR. THIS CAN BE DONE THROUGH SPECIAL
LOS BRIEFINGS, REPRESENTATIONS BY AMBASSADOR AND ANY VISITS BY
SENIOR DEPT OFFICIALS - AS WAS THE CASE DURING
AMBASSADOR LEARSON'S VISIT IN JULY 1976(CARACAS 8775).
SUCH VISITS WOULD OFFICIALLY BE COORDINATED THRU THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTORATE OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS, BUT
THE KEY ACTION OFFICER WOULD BE DR AGUILAR. AGUILAR WOULD,
NO DOUBT, ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP DRAWN FROM SOME OF THE
EXPERTS MENTIONED IN PARA 2. SHOULD WE DECIDE TO MAKE AN
APPROACH TO PRESIDENT PEREZ (LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT
OR THE SECRETARY OR SPECIAL VISITORS), THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE APPROACH SHOULD BE PUT ALSO TO DR AGUILAR.

5. GOV TENDS TO SEND MOST OF ITS LOS EXPERTS TO
ATTEND LOS SESSIONS. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT MOST
DECISIONS ARE MADE BY DELEGATION AS ISSUES PRESENT
THEMSELVES, RATHER THAN FROM CARACAS.

6. VENEZUELA'S LOS STANDS ARE AFFECTED BY ITS
BOUNDARY DISPUTES WITH THE NETERLANDS ANTILLES AND
COLOMBIA.

7. AT THIS POINT, AND NOT KNOWING THE PRECISE ISSUES
TO BE RAISED OR THE TIMING, WE HESITATE TO SUGGEST
SCENARIO FOR USE OF VARIOUS DEVICES AND APPROACHES MENTIONED.
AS FOREGOING DISCUSSION INDICATES WE SHOULD RESERVE
ANY APPROACH TO PRESIDENT PEREZ FOR ONLY THE MOST CRITICAL
AND URGENT OF ISSUES. AGUILAR SHOULD BE OUR MAIN OINT
OF CONTACT. AS A GENERAL RULE, EMBASSY CAN BE MOST USEFUL
IN MAKING SPECIFIC APPROACHES, CONVEYING A
PARTICULAR USG POINT OF VIEW, OR SOLICITING GOV
VIEWPOINTS ON PARTICULAR ISSUE. ANY KIND OF BROADER

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS COULD PROBABLY BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY
VISIT TO CARACAS BY USG LOS EXPERT(S).

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